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ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Gas Can Exchange Program

ILLINOIS DEPOSITORY
OCT 0 8 2004
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

You CAN Help Us Clean The Air!

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich
State of Illinois

Gas Can Replacement

Portable gas cans, like those used to fuel lawnmowers, account for a significant amount of smog-forming emissions escaping into the air every day. Survey data indicates that nearly every household has at least one portable gas can.

Emissions from gas cans occur from evaporation and due to spillage from overfilling of power equipment fuel tanks. In transporting and storing cans, emissions are also released through secondary vent holes and permeation. By using newer gas cans, which are made of materials that minimize permeation losses and include features such as no secondary

vent holes and spill-proof, shut-off valves, harmful gasoline fumes can be reduced by 75 percent or 16.8 tons per day of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) throughout the State of Illinois.

Benefits and Costs

Improve indoor air quality and safety

Storing traditional gas cans may pose a threat to the health of those in the home. When old cans are stored in a garage or in the basement, the toxic fumes are emitted into the air and can negatively impact inhabitants with respiratory ailments. The environmentally friendly gas cans will reduce emissions by 75 percent over traditional cans. The emissions reduction potential from this strategy is equivalent to removing 195,000 cars from the highways of the Metro areas.

Cost effectiveness

An environmentally friendly gas can typically cost $6-$11 more than a

standard gas can. Assuming a five-year useful life, this amounts to an additional $1.20 to $2.20 per year over the life of the gas can. This equates to a cost effectiveness of $250 to $430 per ton of VOCs reduced, which is a very cost effective strategy.

Future Gas Can Replacement Programs

Be on the alert for future Illinois EPA Gas Can Exchange Program events in other areas. Tell your friends and neighbors about this clean air, cost-saving strategy. Always purchase environmentally friendly, low-emitting cans and products from your local merchants!

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A Simple Solution

"By allowing citizens to trade in old gas cans and in return receive free environmentally friendly cans, we are cleaning up the air throughout Illinois, especially in larger metropolitan areas. Additionally, we hope to alert local residents of another way they too can help improve the air we all breathe."

-Renee Cipriano
Director, Illinois EPA

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